

Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /136 W

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R 190645Z APR 74
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 416
USLO PEKING
INFO AMEMFUBKODBONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSARPAC
CINCPACAF
COMUSTDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4334

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINT PFOR CH UR
SUBJ: WHEREABOUTS OF LI TEH-SHENG AND SINO SOVIET DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY. WEST GERMAN JOURNALIST ALLEGES HE WAS TOLD THAT
POLITBURO MEMBER LI TEH-SHENG IS ON TEMPORARY DUTY IN SINKIANG
AND THAT SOVIETS BELIEVE CHINESE MAY STAGE SINO-SOVIET BORDER
INCIDENT.
END SUMMARY.

1. FRG CONGEN OFF (BENTE) TOLD U.S. CONGENOFF THAT PEKING BASED
WEST GERMAN JOURNALIST HANS BARGMANN HAS PASSED INFO TO FRG
CONGEN THAT CCP VICE CHAIRMAN SHENYANG MILITARY REGION
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COMMANDER LI TEH-SHENG IS TEMPORARILY IN SINKIANG. BARGMANN,

WHO CLAIMS HE HAD SEEN LI AT RECENT PEKING FUNCTION, WAS AT PEKING AIRPORT SEND-OFF FOR VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING ON APRIL 6. BARGMANN NOTED LI'S ABSENCE FROM TOP LEVEL LINEUP OF WELL WISHERS AND BARGMANN ASKED A WELL PLACED PRC SOURCE WITH WHOM HE HAS GOOD CONTACTS ABOUT LI. THE CONTACT INDICATED THAT LI WAS WELL AND WOULD ONLY SAY THAT LI WAS ON TDY IN SINKIANG BUT WOULD GIVE NO OTHER DETAILS.

2. BARGMANN HAS ALSO REPORTED THAT IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH PEKING SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR, THE SOVIET, COMMENTING ON THE SINKIANG SOVIET HELICOPTER INCIDENT, CONFIRMED TO BARGMANN THAT, AS ADUMBRATED IN PRC FONMIN STATEMENT RE HELICOPTER, THERE HAD INDEED BEEN A NUMBER OF RECENT SINO-SOVIET BORDER INCIDENTS. THE SOVIET EMBOFF TOLD BARGMAN THAT SOVIET BELIEVED AND WERE CONCERNED THAT THE CHINESE, IN ORDER TO ENHANCE UNITY AND COHESION OF PRC MILITARY AGAINST BACKDROP OF CURRENT POLITICAL CRITICISM OF PLA LEADERS, MAY STAGE OR PROVOKE MORE SERIOUS BORDER INCIDENT WITH USSR. SOVIET OFFICIAL CONTINUED THAT NONETHELESS USSR WOULD NOT REACT RASHLY BUT WOULD CONTINUE TO COMPORT ITSELF REASONABLY AND CORRECTLY. BENTE SAID NEITHER BARGMANN NOR FRG OFFICIALS HAD ANY INFORMAHGON WHICH WOULD LINK-UP LI'S ALLEGED PRESENCE IN SINKIANG TO SOVIET EMBOFF'S STATEMENTS BUT THIS POSSIBILITY EXISTED.

3. COMMENT. BARGMANN HAS RATHER SPOTTY RECORD AS TO ACCURACY OF HIS REPORTING AND WE ARE FORWARDING THE ABOVE PRIMARILY IN THE EVENT IT MIGHT FIT WITH OTHER INFORMATION THAT MAY EMERGE. CROSS

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